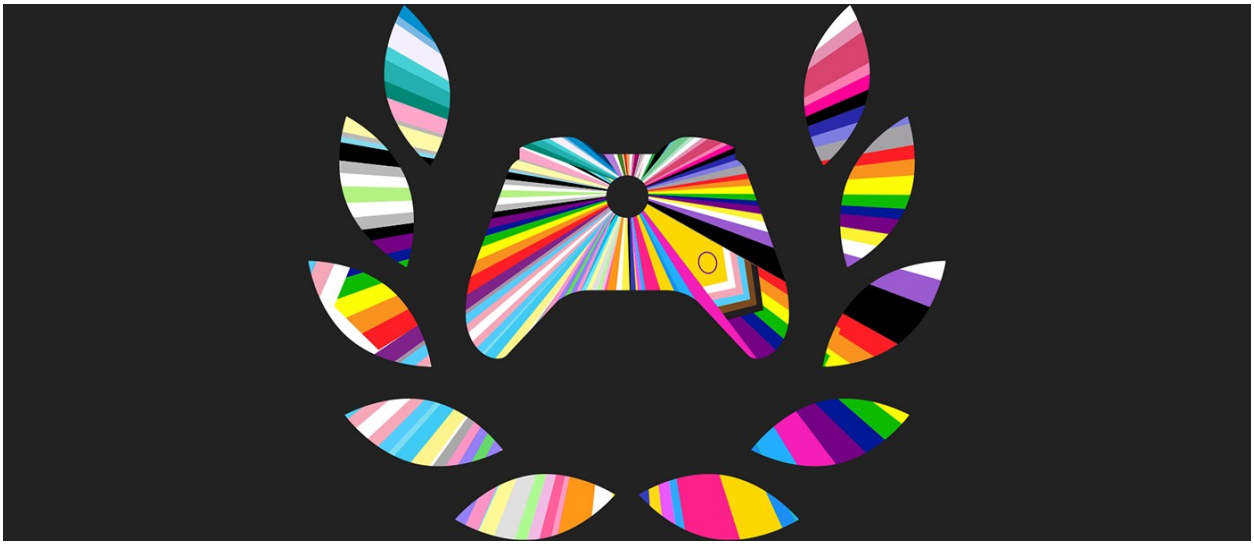


# Pride Month ’22: Xbox Ambassadors Share Their Stories

Community Fifthpaw Jun 1, 2022

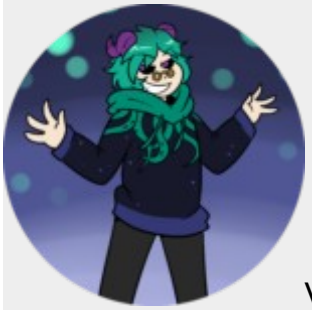
Happy Pride Month! The Xbox Ambassadors program has always been about amplifying and highlighting voices within our awesome community. In anticipation of Pride, we asked LGBTQIA+ members of our community how games with LGBTQIA+ representation have impacted them and to share their own stories about being a member of a gaming community.

We received hundreds of responses and, with much consideration, selected the following to share.

Here are their stories in their own words. If you would like to hear some submitters reading their own stories, head on over to our YouTube channel!

**KODA89**

*He/Him*



Video games with LGBTQIA+ characters helped me come to terms with my sexuality. For most of my life I would say that attractive men were good looking, but would then, unintentionally, always deflect that

to some degree by framing it with, “I’m comfortable enough in my sexuality to say that this man is good looking.” In 2019 I began questioning if I actually was as comfortable as I would tell myself, and then 2020 rolled around and the phenomenal Hades came out.

Along my journey to escape the bowels of the underworld and help Zagreus learn more about himself, I would end up learning something about myself as well. Hades helped me realize that I was actually bisexual. It wasn’t just merely due to the game having a treasure trove of attractive men to romance alongside its beautiful women either. It was how Zagreus would carry himself around characters of both genders.

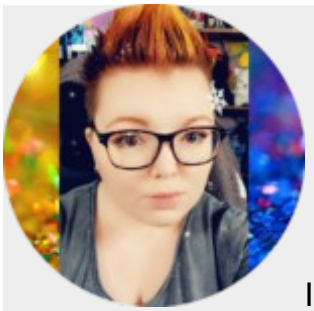
Many games before Hades had allowed the option to romance either men or women, and on some occasions both on the same save file, but it never really felt like an earnest attempt at bisexuality. With Hades there was a tenderness involved in the romances I never really saw before. Zag was quite possibly the first unquestionably bisexual male character I had experienced at that point that was being presented in a positive light.

I had seen a few bisexual women be handled well beforehand, but the bisexual men I saw in media prior to this game were almost always framed as sexual deviants or insatiable erotic predators, at best being people of extremely loose moral compasses. Through Zag I saw representation that I didn’t know was either possible or that I had needed to see. He was attractive, he was awesome, he was charming and possessed a fiery whip of a tongue, more or less the ideal power fantasy for me, and on top of all of that, he was bisexual.

Time and again gaming communities have helped me find a place among peers that I belonged to. It hasn’t been exactly smooth sailing. The slinging of some awful language is sadly still very prevalent among online gaming communities, but that has made those places I deemed safe harbors all the more precious and memorable to me. There is just something special about knowing that there are groups of people I can rely on to kick back and relax with and share the special experience that is gaming.

**MouseIsTaken**

*They/Them*



I’m a non-binary, asexual, pansexual gamer, and I have two games in particular that have impacted me the most. The first is the Life is Strange series, and especially True Colours. When I first played Life is Strange, I was not yet out publicly and being able to romance Chloe in the game made me feel so seen. While all of the games have LGBTQIA2+ representation, the relationship between Steph and Alex was my favourite. There are so many moments between them that just make you go “Aww” and happy cry. The fact that you can choose to romance male and female characters, or none at all, in all of the games really helped me uncover my pansexuality as well as my asexuality. However, the next game was more important for the latter.

The second game is The Outer Worlds. I played it day one on Xbox Game Pass and there’s a moment in the game where one of your companions, Parvati, is talking to the player character about her feelings that are developing for Junlei (another character) and she starts talking about the fact that she’s had past romantic relationships, but none of them have lasted that long. She goes on to explain that she’s asexual and is disinterested in the physical sides of relationships which caused her partners to find her cold.

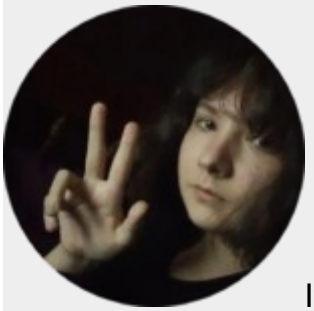
This interaction was such a small, but very important, conversation that left me sobbing, because it was the first time I had seen asexuality represented in video games, and in fact the first time I’d seen it represented as a normal way to be. Growing up I never had that representation, so I spent a lot of time thinking there was something wrong with me and seeing that representation in video games just made me so happy.

Gaming communities have been such a huge part of my life for as long as I can remember. Online gaming was huge for me because all of a sudden, I was meeting and interacting with people from all around the world.

I’m a millennial so I grew up right on the cusp of change for the LGBTQIA2+ community. When I was in school, it was still illegal for teachers to even talk about being LGBTQIA2+ as being okay, and that mentality carried on long after school for a lot of us. Joining online gaming communities- especially Twitch- and finding other queer and gender non-conforming folks just living their best life was a great experience for me. It’s also allowed me to participate in advocacy and awareness campaigns alongside charity fundraising which has been an incredible experience.

**XxLittleRawrxX**

*She/Her*



It’s nice to know people are getting more comfortable about adding LBGTQIA+ characters to games. It gives people confidence about themselves; someone they can relate too. People look to games to help them get through stuff. Knowing you can play games and be able to relate to something when you can’t with anyone else, it means a lot.

I’m trans, but I didn’t know it ’till I talked with other trans people. I got to converse with people like me, with the same feelings. I found out something about myself that I’m glad I found. I don’t have to be scared anymore talking about how I liked girly stuff and how I wanted to be one.

The impact is greater than what most people think. Some communities will make you feel comfortable about who you are. You’re able to relate to people like you. There are plenty of people going through stuff and finding about who they are. Sometimes they need a little push to get out there, obtain confidence in who they are.

**itsMikeytho**

*They/Them*

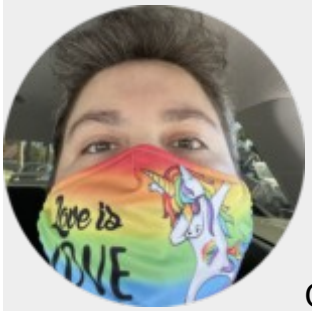
Tell Me Why is one of my favorite LGBTQIA+ stories in gaming! A few months before I came out as non-binary I played Tell Me Why again and was so inspired by Tyler Ronan. The difficulties that Tyler goes through while still being true to himself help gave me the courage to finally embrace my true self!

The Xbox Ambassador community has been such a positive experience for me! I came out as non-binary and pansexual a few months ago and this

community has been so accepting and supportive of me. Making lasting friendships with amazing people who have the same mission for positivity, inclusiveness and fun in gaming as me has been so super neat. Our community is phenomenal!

**Spoodly Phoenix**

*She/They*



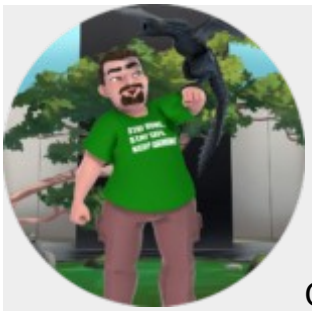

Growing up in the 90's and early 2000's, there weren't that many games that featured these kinds of characters. Seeing them more and more has just felt amazing. Not only does this make me feel like games are being more inclusive, but I feel like I can immerse myself a lot more, as these are people like me.

I think one of my favorite times has been playing Tell Me Why. It was such a beautiful game with a heart-breaking story, and even though I don't identify as trans, I was still able to immerse myself so well in the story. I also have friends who identify as trans with their own amazing stories, so this was a game/experience that really touched my heart.

I'd always known growing up that I was a bit different from the majority of people I knew, but never could quite point it out, as I grew up in a somewhat conservative city. Now, as an adult, it's been easier to find where I fit, and one place I've always felt welcome and safe was the gaming community. Even though we gamers come from all over the world, with different backgrounds, beliefs, cultures, and more, overall, we've created a community that welcomes everyone, and I can't be happier to be a part of it!

**RemBren03**

*He/Him*



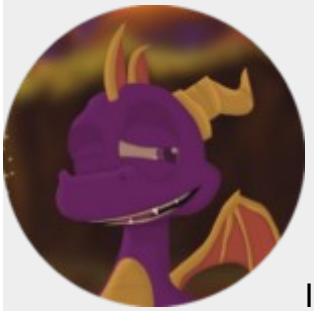
Growing up, there were no LGBTQIA+ characters in games. If they existed, they were either implied gay or outright offensive caricatures. As games have become more inclusive it has been wonderful to see people like me represented in games as positive characters and not a joke.

My favorite most recently was playing Tiny Tina's wonderland. When you create a character, you don't necessarily select a gender, you select a body type, preferred pronouns, and voices. I personally identify as gay and cis, but I have many trans friends who won't game because they don't like the binary gender system in other games. With something that seems so simple, I am able to game with friends who had been avoiding it.

I work from home now and having a gaming community that I built has been a great way to make me still feel connected. I have friends who I met in game who now hang out with me in the real world. I have someone to talk about my day with and someone to play games. By finding the right community, I've been truly blessed.

**gamer io9998**

*He/Him*



It's actually amazing to see how many people support LGBTQIA+ in video games. One of the games where I've really noticed that is in Dead by Daylight! When I started playing a few months ago there was the Pride Charm, and I was surprised by how many people were actually wearing it. Since April it has also been confirmed that David King is a gay character in the game, making me want to main him, haha.

Just by seeing the sheer amount of people playing with David and having the pride charm(s) on makes me feel more accepted into the gaming community. It has also made me more open about my sexuality to others!

When using the LFG feature on Xbox I tend to look at posts having “LGBTQIA+” (or something related to it) tags in them. It’s also thanks to some LGBTQIA+ friends on Discord that I’ve decided to come out to in real life friends. I still remember telling my best friend (and first irl person) about my sexuality; it was through Discord as well (because I felt more comfortable with it) and I was shaking A LOT… It probably took me about 30 minutes to actually say it, and up until now, he still had the most positive reaction I could’ve asked for to my coming out! He may be straight, but I love him for the support he gave me during that rough time.

**RandomSashaLove**

*She/They*

One game that has impacted me as a bisexual individual has been Grand Theft Auto: The Ballad of Gay Tony. An old school classic, this game has helped in a way understand more about LGBTQIA+ individuals as I was at a time where I was questioning who I was. The game play in this helped me understand predominantly those who identify as being gay, due to their happily enthusiastic attitudes and their phenomenal sass, this game has never failed to encourage me to play more games that support the community.

Gaming communities as a whole have evolved over the years, leading to more acceptance of those who represent in the LGBTQIA+ community. Having the freedom to express ourselves is a big step and it’s something that continues to evolve in 2022.

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Thank you once again to all submitters for telling us their awesome stories! Learn more about how we honor Pride at Xbox and Microsoft here. And remember; when everyone plays, we all win.